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1962/10/27

ATTN: SECRETARY

The following instructions have been sent from the Foreign Secretary to Sir Patrick Dean, Her Majesty's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York.

2. The Foreign Secretary naturally does not wish to do anything which may cut across U.Thant's efforts through three-sided conversations to reach a basis on which negotiations can begin for the resolution of outstanding problems. At the same time a critical point may arise within the next twenty-four to forty-eight hours if U.Thant's three-sided conversations do not appear to be getting anywhere, and the work on the missile sites continues. If some further initiative is usefully to be made, the opportunity may only arise if it is taken before the United States Government has reached the conclusion that they must act in order to immobilise the missile sites.

One possibility would be for U.Thant to announce, preferably with, but if necessary without, any special authorisation from the United Nations, that he was going at once to Cuba with a team of inspectors in order to arrange that, during a period to enable negotiations to take place, the missile sites would be rendered inoperable, the work stopped and the import of offensive weapons into Cuba from any source prevented. He might at the same time ask that, while he was in Cuba attempting to make

these arrangements/

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDO/MA

British Embassy, Washington, D.C.

October 27, 1962.

REVIEWED by

DATE 1/9/68

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these arrangements, the American Government should suspend quarantine measures and the Soviet Government undertake to continue for this short period to hold back shipping.

3. He might also make use of the following two ideas which the Foreign Secretary understands would be acceptable to the United States Government; (a) that the inviolability of Cuba might become a subject of international guarantee provided that it was demilitarised, and/or (b) that Latin America should be made a nuclear-free zone. Both of these ideas have obvious merits against any idea for reciprocity in the European area. But if it would make all the difference, and help both Khrushchev and Castro to agree, Sir Patrick Dean has discretion to say that, for the short term, and in order to enable negotiations to take place, Her Majesty's Government would be likely to respond affirmatively to any appeal from U Thant to allow during this period the immobilisation of our Thor missile sites in the United Kingdom. Sir Patrick Dean has been asked to put these ideas to the Secretary General at the earliest possible moment and to obtain from him an undertaking (a) that before he takes any action on them he should let the United Kingdom Delegate know what he was going to do and (b) that well before he gets finally stuck he should warn Sir Patrick Dean, in which case Her Majesty's Government may wish to make a public initiative on similar lines.

REPRODUCTION OF GOVERNMENT EXPENSE